

HOME
LAPTOPSULTIMATE
LAPTOPS

If you want a laptop that can provide some home comforts as well as all the benefits of life on the move, why not try one of these six PCs, from just £699 including VAT?



INTRODUCTION

A computer isn't just there for the dull things in life, such as writing letters and checking your bank balance, so why should it sit in a mess of cables in the corner of your home? The laptops in this *Labs* can do everything a desktop PC can, and they'll do it without cluttering up your home or forcing you from the comfort of your sofa.

We've gathered six high-specification laptops, ranging in price from £700 to £800 including VAT. They can all cope with everyday tasks, while the larger laptops have huge screens to make the most of high-definition video. The lighter ones make great travelling companions, allowing you to surf the web and edit videos and images no matter where you are.

No matter how you want to use your laptop, there's a model for you in this round-up.

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Choosing a...
Home Laptop

Most people don't take their laptops out of their homes, so why choose a laptop PC over a desktop model? For us, the key attraction is that one laptop can have multiple personalities as it travels around the house, from office PC to video player, and still be small enough to be tucked away out of sight when it's not needed. However, this does put pressure on it to be a jack of all trades, which isn't easy for a computer that weighs just a few kilograms.

All six laptops in this round-up rise to this challenge. They're not the cheapest models on the market, but between them they offer astounding performance, masses of disk space, high-definition video playback and plentiful options to connect to other equipment both with and without wires. They all come with high-resolution glossy screens that make photos and videos look rich and vibrant, and webcams seamlessly integrated into the tops of their lids. They all have multifunction card readers for easy management of your digital photos, and wireless networking to access your broadband connection anywhere in your home.

BARE NECESSITIES

Snazzy features are all well and good, but they need to be built on a strong foundation. As such, there are

certain standards we expect a laptop to meet for it to deserve an award. If its screen, keyboard or touch pad is below par, it can ruin an otherwise excellent laptop, especially as it can't be replaced in the same way that a desktop PC's peripherals can. We've made notes on the standard of each touch pad, keyboard and screen in the individual reviews.

These laptops have two other human interfaces: speakers and a webcam. These are important features, too, but sadly you can't expect great things from either. All the webcams are fine for videoconferencing, but they won't take great photos, while the speakers vary from passable to horrible. If you want to play music, watch movies or play games, you should attach some external speakers.

THE LINKS EFFECT

It's also important that you can connect all your other PC hardware without grappling with insufficient sockets. USB2 and 802.11g wireless are by far the most common types of connection, and it's no surprise that these are supported across the board. However, while Toshiba's laptop has six USB2 sockets, Samsung's has only two, which could be a problem, depending on what other kit you have. The Samsung Q45's Draft-N



wireless support might just make up for it if you couple the laptop with a wireless router and network-attached storage.

Other connections may be vital or irrelevant, depending on the kit you already own. FireWire is essential for transferring video from older MiniDV camcorders, although most newer video cameras use USB. If you want to connect your laptop to a new flat-screen TV, you should look for an HDMI port, as present on the Asus, Mesh, PC Nextday and Toshiba laptops.

Portability will be imperative for some, but largely irrelevant for others. Decide how often you plan to take your laptop out of the house. If it's once or twice a week, we recommend that you limit your choice to the Mesh, PC Nextday and Samsung laptops, which all weigh under 3kg. If it's every day then head straight for Samsung's 1.9kg Q45.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Once you've identified the laptops that meet your basic requirements, you can concentrate on the features that add fun to the proceedings. All the models here are easily powerful enough to run Windows Vista and Microsoft Office, browse media-laden websites and play DVDs and even high-definition video files. However, if you want to play around with digital photos, make your own music or edit videos, you'll appreciate the faster performers. None of the laptops is a

serious gaming machine (see the box below for details), but two models make a fair stab at running demanding 3D games.

The Acer and Toshiba laptops' DVD writers can play HD DVD discs, which means you can watch high-definition movies on their 17in widescreen displays. Sadly, HD DVD is no longer supported, so we would be hesitant to start building a disc collection. However, you can still buy some films, and normal DVDs will work, so there's still plenty of fun to be had while you wait for set-top Blu-ray players to become more affordable.

Action stations Playing games on a laptop

This month, two laptops come with ATI's Mobility Radeon HD2600 graphics chipset, one of the more powerful 3D chips available in a laptop. So is it possible for serious gamers to buy a laptop instead of a desktop PC?

Everyone has their own priorities, but for us games performance isn't high on the list when choosing a laptop. We've never felt the urge to engage in frantic warfare during a commute. At home, games work best with a big monitor, surround speakers, a mouse and a desk to sit at, so a desktop computer makes more sense than a laptop. It isn't just an issue

This month

ACER
Aspire 7720G
Page 74



ASUS
F7Sr
Page 74



MESH
GX610-4G
Page 74



PC NEXTDAY
Zoostorm 4-6640
15.4" Advanced Laptop
Page 75



SAMSUNG
Q45
Page 75



TOSHIBA
Satellite P200-1EE
Page 75



A 17in screen isn't just for movies, though. Photo slideshows will benefit just as much, and these screens' high resolutions are a big asset for creative software or for viewing multiple office documents at once.

INNER SPACE

Finally, if you're planning on having lots of fun with your laptop, then go for one with a big hard disk, such as the PC Nextday's 320GB model or Acer's Aspire, which has twin 160GB disks. The finer things in computing life tend to gobble up disk space at an alarming rate.

of ergonomics, though. Desktop PCs are easy to upgrade, but it's impossible to upgrade a laptop's 3D chipset. The gaming laptops on test can play Call of Duty 2 at an acceptable level of detail, but don't stand a chance with the latest generation of games, such as Crysis. Even the latest desktop PCs struggle with this landmark game, but with a desktop PC it's no problem to upgrade the graphics card.

If you're buying a laptop for games, expect to pay a fortune for one with SLI GeForce 8700M graphics, such as Dell's XPS M1730 (see *What's New, Shopper* 242).



ACER Aspire 7720G

★★★★

£699 inc VAT
From www.dabs.com

The Aspire 7720G's large beige chassis and 17in widescreen display make it more suitable for home users than those who have to work on the move. The laptop has an HD DVD drive, and high-definition films look great on the glossy, vibrant screen, which exhibited highly accurate colours in our tests. Toshiba has pulled the plug on HD DVD, so the laptop won't play future high-definition films. Still, you're not paying a premium for the drive.

The laptop's mini subwoofer-assisted speakers have better than average sound quality, but if you need more volume than this there's an optical S/PDIF socket to output Dolby Digital film soundtracks to a surround-sound system.

The keyboard has a useful numeric keypad, but our fingers caught the underside of the flimsy space bar on a couple of occasions. The position and sensitivity of the touch pad also means the cursor flies off course at the slightest touch, causing regular typing errors.

The chassis has room for two hard disks, and Acer has filled both slots with 160GB models. This gives a generous 287GB of formatted space, but it pushes up the laptop's weight to a back-breaking 3.62kg. Still, 17in desktop-replacement laptops aren't designed for regular travel, so the relatively meagre two-hour battery life won't be much of a problem.

The Aspire has an impressive specification, with a 2GHz Core 2 Duo processor, 2GB of RAM and GeForce 8400M GS graphics, but its rivals here show that these aren't the best components available for the cash. Performance was a little below average in all our benchmark tests, which shouldn't impinge on office and web-related tasks but will slow down creative software. 3D performance is fine for older games, but we had to switch off anti-aliasing and drop the resolution to 640x480 pixels before Call of Duty 2 became playable.

There's a lot to like about Acer's Aspire 7720G, but Asus's F7Sr is a faster and better-specified laptop.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Excellent screen
- ☒ Uninspiring performance
- ☒ Over-sensitive touch pad

DESKTOP-REPLACEMENT LAPTOP Intel Core 2 Duo T7300, 2GB RAM, 2x 160GB disks, Nvidia GeForce 8400M GS graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, HD DVD-ROM, 17in widescreen LCD, 3.6kg
PART CODE LX.ALN0X.248
DETAILS www.acer.co.uk



ASUS F7Sr

★★★★★

£705 inc VAT
From www.morecomputers.com



The F7Sr's charcoal colour scheme makes it look businesslike without being stuffy. The back and right-hand edges have every sort of socket we could hope for, with five USB2, FireWire, HDMI, D-sub, S-video and eSATA ports. The latter allows you to add a super-fast external 3½in hard disk, which will be quicker than the internal one. This is a useful feature for those dealing with large amounts of audio and video. The internal 250GB hard disk should be large enough for most people, but an eSATA drive could still be useful for fast backups. The laptop has fast Draft-N wireless networking and Bluetooth for connecting to peripherals and mobile phones.

The 17in screen isn't as bright as those of the other laptops, but it looks fine when viewed in isolation. Colours are vibrant, accurate and flattering to photos and videos. The keyboard is a little spongy, but the large chassis means there's room for a numeric keypad and no need for shrunken keys. The touch pad feels accurate and responsive and the laptop comes with a small optical mouse, which is easier to use than the touch pad when the laptop's on a desk. Asus supplies a carrying case but this isn't a laptop for regular travel, with its 3.5kg weight and poor battery life. It lasted for just one hour and 39 minutes in our light-use battery life test.

The Asus's Radeon HD2400 graphics chipset gives it some 3D performance, and it managed 9.7fps in our Call of Duty 2 test. Dropping the resolution to 640x480 and switching off anti-aliasing gave 27.4fps, which is just about playable if you can put up with crude image quality. Its 2.2GHz Core 2 Duo processor and 3GB of RAM are up to intensive media-editing tasks, as shown by its impressive score of 178 in our 2D application benchmarks.

Asus's F7Sr isn't much good for use on the move or for playing games, but as a general-purpose laptop for the home its power, plentiful connections and large screen make it an excellent choice. It's our Best Buy.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Generous specification
- ☒ Strong Windows performance
- ☒ Poor battery life

DESKTOP-REPLACEMENT LAPTOP Intel Core 2 Duo T7500, 3GB RAM, 250GB disk, ATI Mobility Radeon HD2400 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17in widescreen LCD, 3.5kg
PART CODE F7SR-7S128C
DETAILS <http://uk.asus.com>



MESH GX610-4G

★★★★

£799 inc VAT
From www.meshcomputers.com

Mesh normally sells own-brand laptops, but this one is MSI-branded and MSI also handles the after-sales support. It's not quite as stylish as the others here and its glossy finish attracts fingerprints, but it's no eyesore.

It's normally only 17in laptops that have a numeric keypad, so it's unusual to find one on this 15.4in model. This is achieved partly by using every inch of available width, but also by making a few keys such as Enter and full stop smaller than usual, which may annoy touch-typists. The keyboard feels a little spongy, too, and flexes under pressure.

The screen is excellent, with accurate colours and flattering photo reproduction. Mesh's GX610-4G also comes with a cloth display protector to stop the keyboard scratching the screen when the laptop is closed. The webcam's image quality is above average, but the speakers sound harsh and tinny and have a noisy fan to contend with. If you want better sound, the three mini-jack sockets can be configured to provide 5.1 audio output for surround speakers.

The core components are an odd mixture. There's 4GB of RAM, which is as much as we've seen in a laptop but, due to limitations in the way the 32-bit version of Windows Vista addresses memory, only around 3.5GB is available to the operating system. Its AMD Turion processor is no match for the 2GHz and faster Core 2 Duos used elsewhere, scoring 130 overall in our Windows benchmarks, putting it second from last here. The GX610-4G's Radeon HD2600 graphics chip is powerful, though. It had the best 3D performance in the group, managing 20.8 frames per second in Call of Duty 2. However, the relatively small 120GB disk won't hold a huge number of modern games.

The GX610-4G's strong 3D performance, great screen, bundled mouse and backpack and surround-sound output add up to an impressive gaming laptop, but it's not well suited to Windows tasks and it won't keep up with the demands of modern games for long.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Strong games performance
- ☒ Disappointing keyboard
- ☒ Fairly small hard disk

GENERAL-PURPOSE LAPTOP AMD Turion 64 X2 TL-58, 4GB RAM, 120GB disk, ATI Mobility Radeon HD2600 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 15.4in widescreen LCD, 2.6kg
PART CODE GX610-4G
DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 4-6640 15.4" Advanced Laptop



£769 inc VAT
From PC Nextday 0870 609 0125

Along with Rock's Pegasus 680 in this month's *What's New*, the Zoostorm 4-6640 is the first laptop we've seen to use Intel's Core 2 Duo mobile processors, codenamed Penryn. These use a 45nm fabrication process, which reduces the chip's power consumption and allows faster clock speeds, a huge 6MB of L2 cache and an 800MHz frontside bus, all of which bodes well for performance. PC Nextday has also included a 320GB hard disk. This is the largest-capacity disk we've seen in a laptop, although Acer matches its storage by using two 160GB disks.

While there are impressive components on the inside, the outside looks plain. The laptop has HDMI and DVI ports, but this is the only laptop here without FireWire. The keyboard feels spongy but its layout is spot on, with no undersized keys and dedicated Home, End and Page Up/Down keys. The touch pad is accurate, if small. The screen offers smooth, vivid colours, but greens are under-saturated, which makes skin tones seem a touch too red. The speakers are surprisingly high quality for a laptop, but the webcam produces grainy video.

The Penryn processor lived up to its impressive clock speed in our Windows benchmarks, racing ahead with an overall score of 211. That's almost 20 per cent faster than the second-fastest laptop in the group, Asus's F7Sr, and better than some similarly priced desktop PCs. The laptop's base got fairly hot in our intensive tests, but it remained stable.

Games performance was less remarkable, with 18.9fps in *Call of Duty 2*. The laptop managed a playable 29.7fps with the resolution reduced to 800x600 pixels and anti-aliasing switched off. It was unstable during our game tests until we downloaded the latest drivers from www.laptopvideo2go.com.

This is a serious contender for a Best Buy award, but despite some impressive features it's not as rounded or polished as Asus's F7Sr.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Massive 2D performance; strong 3D performance
- ☒ Huge hard disk
- ☒ Runs very hot

GENERAL-PURPOSE LAPTOP Intel Core 2 Duo T9300, 2GB RAM, 320GB disk, Nvidia GeForce 8600M GS graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 15.4in widescreen LCD, 2.9kg
PART CODE 3384-6640
DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk



SAMSUNG Q45



£750 inc VAT
From www.laptopsdirect.co.uk

Samsung's Q45 stands apart from the rest of the laptops in this group, with a design that's suited to a life in the great outdoors. Its 1.9kg weight is just over half that of Acer's Aspire, while its four-hour battery life is more than double that of Asus's F7Sr. Its power adaptor is considerably lighter and more compact than the others. The integrated Draft-N wireless networking and Bluetooth further support the Q45's mobile credentials.

The 12.1in screen's glossy finish seems a little out of place on an ultra-portable laptop. Glossy screens flatter photos and videos, but they're susceptible to reflections that make text hard to read under bright lights. The screen's colour accuracy isn't perfect, either, so it's not particularly suitable for photo editing. Its 1,280x800-pixel resolution matches the 15.4in laptops' screens, so you can view just as much information, but it'll be smaller than on the others' screens.

There's no room for a numeric keypad, but Samsung hasn't compromised on the size and layout of existing keys. The keys have a firm action and plenty of feedback, so typing is a pleasant experience, and the touch pad is equally responsive and accurate. The speakers are tinny, but this isn't a particular problem on an ultra-portable laptop. Our biggest concern with the Q45 is that it has only two USB2 ports. Some external hard disks require two ports, which would leave no room for a USB mouse or MP3 player.

We first encountered the Q45 in *What's New, Shopper* 237, so it's great to see that the price has fallen by £50 and the specifications boosted since then. The Core 2 Duo processor now runs at 2.2GHz, making this one of the faster laptops here. Its overall score of 176 in our application benchmarks shows that it can compete with the desktop replacement models, but the integrated graphics chip can't cope with modern 3D games.

Samsung's Q45 isn't the best all-rounder here, but it's a fast, good-value and very light laptop.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Very light
- ☒ Powerful Windows performance
- ☒ Only two USB ports

ULTRA-PORTABLE LAPTOP Intel Core 2 Duo T7500, 2GB RAM, 200GB disk, Intel GMA X3100 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.9kg
PART CODE NP-Q45A007/SUK
DETAILS www.samsung.com/uk



TOSHIBA Satellite P200-1EE



£733 inc VAT
From www.flattelly.co.uk

There are no ugly ducklings in this *Labs*, but the Satellite P200-1EE looks particularly smart. There's no shortage of connections, with six USB2 ports, FireWire and HDMI, and there's even room inside for a second hard disk if the relatively meagre 160GB one fills up.

The high-quality speakers and row of audio controls show that this is a laptop built for entertainment. The 17in widescreen display's 1,440x900-pixel resolution is perfect for high-definition video played from the internal HD DVD drive. It's good you're not paying a premium for the HD DVD drive, as HD DVD is now officially dead so any future films won't be released on the format.

The screen's colour accuracy could be better. It's certainly bright, but light areas are overexposed and colours are a bit washed out. The ATI graphics driver let us lower the Gamma setting to restore lost vibrancy and highlight detail, but at the expense of shadow detail. Few people will find this a serious problem in general use, but it does mean that the P200-1EE isn't ideally suited to photo editing. The keyboard has a positive, clicky action and an excellent layout, except for the Enter key, which is skinny. The touch pad is responsive and accurate, but the integrated webcam produced grainier video than the others here.

Battery life is the best of the 17in laptops, surviving for 2¼ hours in our light-use test. The 3.3kg weight is lower than the others, too, but while Toshiba includes a case, we can't imagine taking this laptop on regular travels.

The 1.5GHz Core 2 Duo T5250 is fine for business software, the web and multimedia entertainment, but those with other aspirations would benefit from something faster. Games performance is up there with the best, with the Radeon HD2600 helping to achieve 20fps in *Call of Duty 2*.

Toshiba's Satellite P200-1EE is a competent laptop, but it has an unimpressive screen and mediocre Windows performance. Asus's F7Sr is a better desktop-replacement laptop.

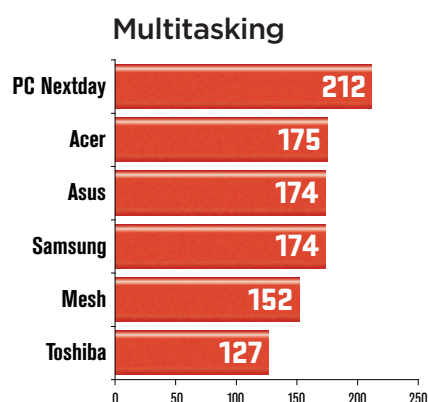
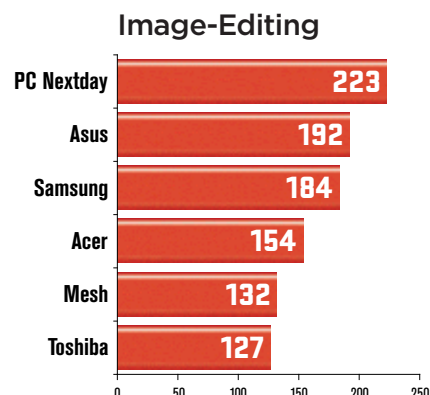
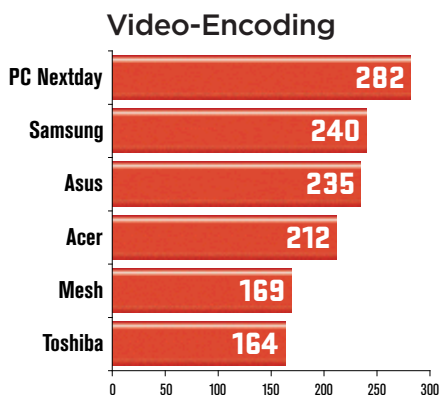
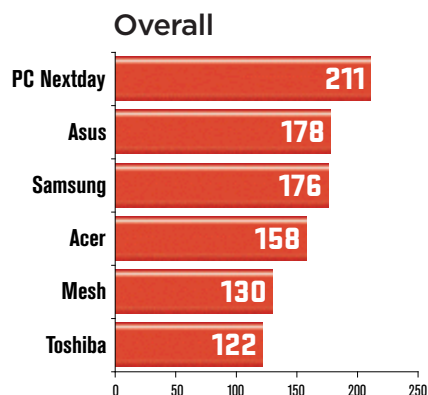
SUMMARY

- ☒ Strong games performance
- ☒ Mediocre Windows performance
- ☒ Washed-out screen colours

DESKTOP-REPLACEMENT LAPTOP Intel Core 2 Duo T5250, 2GB RAM, 160GB disk, ATI Mobility Radeon HD2600 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, HD DVD-ROM, 17in widescreen LCD, 3.3kg
PART CODE P200-1EE
DETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

BENCHMARKS

2D Performance Shopper application tests



Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks are designed to show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we have chosen to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

There are four scripts. Encoding a video to MPEG2 format is an extremely processor-intensive task that anyone interested in transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro X, culminating with the composition of a panorama from a set of snaps. In our third test, a set of audio files is ripped to MP3 format. Finally, the multitasking benchmark

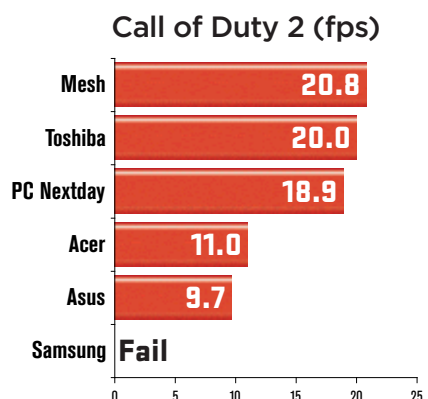


SETTINGS We run our application tests at the notebook's native resolution in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

tests the real-life benefits of Hyper-Threaded and dual-core processors. This test compresses a DVD for playback on a Pocket PC at the same time as running our image-editing test.

Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+, which scores 100 in all tests.

3D Performance Call of Duty 2

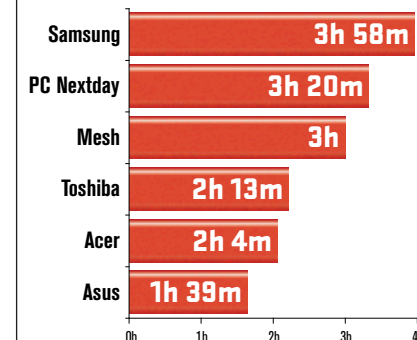


SETTINGS
 1,024x768
 resolution, high
 quality, 4x AA
WEB www.futuremark.com

Call of Duty 2 uses DirectX and is one of the most demanding games available. With a wide range of effects and frenetic action, it tests every aspect of graphics performance.

A good score here indicates that a PC should cope with any graphically intense 3D game coming on to the market today.

Battery life Run time



Our battery test involves light browser use with the screen at its medium brightness setting.

Labs verdict Home laptops

With a budget of £700 to £800 including VAT, we would expect a laptop to have no significant flaws and plenty of power. Therefore, we were delighted to see that all six manufacturers scored well on both counts.

We were generally impressed by the amount of power available, as well as the number of standard features. There were a few keyboards, screens and touch pads that were a little below par, but any of the laptops in this round-up would make a great computer for the home.

Acer's Aspire, Mesh's GX610 and Toshiba's P200 are all excellent laptops that we'd be happy to own. The Aspire has the best screen, the P200 the best keyboard, and the GX610 the best games performance. However, against such strong competition these advantages earned these laptops only three stars. PC Nextday has the best Windows performance by quite some distance, but at the expense of a hot chassis.

Two laptops really stood out. Samsung's Q45's diminutive size, strong performance and superb battery life make it an excellent mobile



computer for just £750 including VAT. Asus's F7Sr is big, heavy and has poor battery life, but its big hard disk, excellent 17in screen and variety of sockets make it an exceptional replacement for a desktop PC.



MANUFACTURER	ACER	ASUS	MESH	PC NEXTDAY	SAMSUNG	TOSHIBA
Model	Aspire 7720G	F7Sr	GX610-4G	Zoostorm 4-6640 15.4" Advanced Laptop	Q45	Satellite P200-1EE
Rating	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo T7300	Intel Core 2 Duo T7500	AMD Turion 64 X2 TL-58	Intel Core 2 Duo T9300	Intel Core 2 Duo T7500	Intel Core 2 Duo T5250
Speed	2.0GHz	2.2GHz	1.9GHz	2.5GHz	2.2GHz	1.5GHz
Memory installed	2GB	3GB	4GB	2GB	2GB	2GB
Memory slots (free)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
Maximum memory	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
BIOS	Acer	AMI	AMI	Phoenix	Phoenix	Toshiba
Dimensions (HxWxD)	43x404x298mm	42x403x299mm	33x358x259mm	36x359x255mm	36x299x217mm	47x399x288mm
Weight	3.6kg	3.5kg	2.6kg	2.9kg	1.9kg	3.3kg
Sound	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio
Pointing device	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad
DISPLAY						
Screen size	17in widescreen LCD	17in widescreen LCD	15.4in widescreen LCD	15.4in widescreen LCD	12.1in widescreen LCD	17in widescreen LCD
Graphics adaptor	Nvidia GeForce 8400M GS	ATI Mobility Radeon HD2400	ATI Mobility Radeon HD2600	Nvidia GeForce 8600M GS	Intel GMA X3100	ATI Mobility Radeon HD2600
Graphics outputs	D-sub, DVI, S-video	HDMI, D-sub, S-video	HDMI, D-sub, S-video	HDMI, DVI	D-sub	HDMI, D-sub, S-video
Graphics memory	256MB dedicated	256MB dedicated	256MB dedicated	512MB dedicated	128MB shared	256MB dedicated
Native resolution	1,440x900	1,440x900	1,280x800	1,280x800	1,280x800	1,440x900
STORAGE						
Hard disk (available)	2x 160GB (287GB)	250GB (225GB)	120GB (106GB)	320GB (291GB)	200GB (176GB)	160GB (148GB)
Optical drive model	Toshiba TS-L802A	HL-DT-ST GSA-T20L	Optiarc AD-7530B	TSST SN-S082H	TSST TS-L632M	Toshiba TS-L802A
Optical drive type	DVD+/-RW +/-DL, HD DVD-ROM	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL, HD DVD-ROM
PORTS AND EXPANSION						
USB2 ports	4	5	4	4	2	6
FireWire	1	1	1	0	1	1
Infrared port	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Bluetooth	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Networking	10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g	10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g, Draft-N	10/100/1,000, 802.11b/g	10/100, 802.11a/b/g	10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g, Draft-N	10/100, 802.11a/b/g
PC card slots	1x ExpressCard/54	1x ExpressCard/54	1x ExpressCard/54	1x ExpressCard/54	1x CardBus	1x ExpressCard/54
Modem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legacy ports	None	None	None	None	None	None
Memory card reader	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, xD	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, Smart Media, xD	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, xD	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, xD
Other ports	Optical S/PDIF output	eSATA	None	None	None	Optical S/PDIF output
MISCELLANEOUS						
Carrying case	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Direct CD control	No	No	No	No	No	No
Operating system	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium
Operating system restore option	Restore partition	Restore disc	Restore disc	Restore partition	Restore disc	Restore disc
Software included	Acer Empowering Technology, Acer Launch Manager, NTI CD-Maker	Nero 7 Essentials, CyberLink PowerDVD	CyberLink DVD Suite	None	Cyberlink DVD Solution	Microsoft Works 8.5, Toshiba HD DVD Player, Ulead DVD MovieWriter
Other standard accessories	0.3-megapixel webcam	1.3-megapixel webcam, mouse	1.3-megapixel webcam, mouse	0.3-megapixel webcam	1.3-megapixel webcam	1.3-megapixel webcam
Optional extras (including VAT)	None	None	None	None	None	None
BUYING INFORMATION						
Company founded	Notebook division 1985	1989	1987	1993	1971	1985
Employees	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	75	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Technical support staff	Not disclosed	12	2	25	Not disclosed	50
Technical support times	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-5pm Mon-Fri	9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri	9am-6pm Mon-Fri	9am-5pm Mon-Fri	8am-12am Mon-Sun
Parts and labour warranty	One year collect and return	Two years RTB	Two years collect and return	One year RTB	One year collect and return	One year collect and return
Price including VAT	£699	£705	£799	£769	£750	£733
Price excluding VAT	£595	£600	£680	£654	£638	£624
Details	www.acer.co.uk	http://uk.asus.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.samsung.com/uk	www.toshiba.co.uk
Supplier	www.dabs.com	www.morecomputers.com	www.meshcomputers.com	PC Nextday 0870 609 0125	www.laptopsdirect.co.uk	www.flattelly.co.uk
Part number	LX.ALN0X.248	F7SR-7S128C	GX610-4G	3384-6640	NP-Q45A007/SUK	PSPB6E-0GM028EN